

ORIGINAL ORIGINAL
SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP

1440 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-2111

TEL: (202) 371-7000

FAX: (202) 393-5760

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TORONTO

DIRECT DIAL
202-371-7230
DIRECT FAX
202-371-7996
EMAIL ADDRESS
ABUSH@SKADDEN.COM

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MAR 23 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 23, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

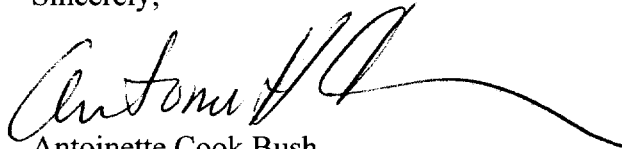
Re: ***Ex Parte Submission of Broadwave USA***
ET Docket No. 98-206, RM-9147, RM-9245

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed on behalf of Northpoint Technology, Ltd. is an ex parte letter to Julius Knapp dated March 23, 2000.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules (47 CFR § 1.1206), an original and six copies of this letter are submitted for inclusion in the public record for the above-captioned proceedings. Please direct any questions concerning this submission to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Cook Bush
Counsel for Broadwave USA

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DIRECT FAX
(202) 371-7996

March 23, 2000

Julius P. Knapp
Chief, Policy and Rules Division
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, 445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ***Ex Parte* Submission of Broadwave USA**
ET Docket No. 98-206, Rm-9147, RM-9245

Dear Mr. Knapp:

In our recent meeting you asked about the capacity of various cable systems with which Broadwave USA ("Broadwave") would compete in the marketplace. In response, we submit the following table, which is based on information in *Kagan's Digital Tier Strategies, 1998*.

Cable System Capacity

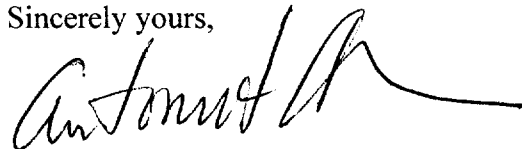
Bandwidth	1996	1997	1998
	<i>% systems</i>	<i>% systems</i>	<i>% systems</i>
450 MHz & under	59	45	29
550 MHz	13	14	14
750 MHz or greater	28	41	57
	100	100	100

This table makes it clear that a substantial majority of cable systems have at least 750 MHz of bandwidth available. It is also clear that the trend is towards upgrading capacity. A prime driver of this change has been the "social contracts" made by many cable systems with the FCC.¹ The Commission has also noted that two MSOs are now offering over 170 channels to their subscribers² and that in October of 1999 64.2% of all cable subscribers were served by systems with 54 or more channels.³

Because the trend is clearly towards increased cable capacity, the Broadwave affiliates will require every bit of the 500 MHz they have applied for. Another factor to consider in evaluating Broadwave's need for capacity is that the Broadwave affiliates will use a wireless transmission system based on QPSK, a protocol that facilitates sharing with DBS, but which also provides less data capacity than protocols such as 64QAM used by cable systems in the protected environment of their fiber or coaxial cable systems.

If you have any questions about the above information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Antoinette Cook Bush
Counsel for Broadwave USA

¹ See Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in Markets for the Delivery of Video Programming, FCC 99-418 ("Sixth Annual Report"), at ¶ 40 (released January 14, 2000).

² Comcast, to 60% of its subscribers, and Cox, which offers more than 200 video and audio channels in some of its service areas. Sixth Annual Report at ¶ 21.

³ Sixth Annual Report at ¶ 23.

Julius P. Knapp
March 23, 2000
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cc: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
James R. Burtle (OET)
Thomas Derenge (OET)
Geraldine Matisse (OET)
Bruce A. Franca (OET)
Thomas P. Stanley (WTB)
Michael Pollak (WTB)
Harry Ng (IB)
Thomas S. Tycz (IB)